UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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10/732,920	12/10/2003	Mikio Aoki	9319M-000611	7357

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EXAMINER
DONABED, NINOS J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2444	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/732,920	AOKI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	NINOS DONABED	2444	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS,
WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>08 December 2008</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>2-4,7 and 9-20</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>2-4, 7, 9-20</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

This action is in response to applicant's RCE amendment dated 06/11/2008.

Claims 2, 19 and 20 have been amended. Claim 8 has been canceled. Claim 20 has

been added. Claims 2-4 and 7, and 9-20 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly
claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2-4, 7, and 9-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as

being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter

which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 2, 15-19 and 20, the phrase "a function selecting section that

allows a user to select one or more of the functions" is vague and unclear. It is not

understood where the user is located or who/what the user is. For the furthering of

prosecution it will be taken to mean any user at the device management terminal.

Further regarding claims 2 and 20, the phrase "a selection interface generating

section for generating a selection interface through which one can select one or more

functions" is vague and unclear. It is not understood if "one" is the user or not. For the

furthering of prosecution it will be taken to mean someone other than the "user".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2.   Claims 2-4 and 7-15, 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Hofrichter, (PCT/US01/45355) in view of Matsukura (United States

Patent 6,145,126) further in view of Audleman (United States Patent 6806890.)

Regarding **Claim 2,**

        Hofrichter teaches device management system which connects a network device

with a device management terminal that manages said network device so that they can

communicate with each other, comprising: **(See abstract, Hofrichter)**

        said device management terminal including a module storing section for storing a

function provision module that is applied to said network device to provide it with

functions, **See page 4 lines 12 – 24, Hofrichter teaches a module storing section.)**

        a device information receiving section for receiving device information regarding

said network device, **(See page 4 lines 12-24, Hofrichter teaches receiving device

information.)**

        a module reading section for reading said function provision module determined

by said function I determining section from said module storing section, **(See page 3**

lines 23-45, Hofrichter teaches the application being downloaded the network device.)

a module sending section for sending said function provision module read by said module reading section to said network device, and **(See page 9 lines 16-35, Hofrichter teaches a client having a memory unit.)**

said network device including a device information storing section for storing said device information, a device information sending section for sending said device information stored by said device information storing section to said device management terminal, a module receiving section for receiving said function provision module, a module executing section for executing the function provision module received by said module receiving section. **(See page 9 lines 16-35, Hofrichter teaches a network device having a memory unit, a cpu, and a modem for connecting to the network.)**

Hofitcher does not explicitly teach a function determining section for determining a function provision module that has a function available to said network device based on said device information received by said device information receiving section

Matsukura teaches a function determining section for determining a function provision module that has a function available to said network device based on said device information received by said device information receiving section, **(See figures 12-15 and columns 14 line 25 – column 16 lines 55, Matsukura teaches a function deterring section for determining a function provision module.)**

a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by said function determining section, and wherein said module reading section reads out a function provision module that corresponds to a function selected by the function selecting section from said module storing section, and **(See figures 26-29 and columns 19 line 25 – column 20 lines 55, Matsukura teaches a function selection section that allows a user to select a function.)**

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Hofrichter and Matsukura because both deal with the management of network devices. The advantage of combining Matsukura with Hofrichter is that Matsukura allows computers to be moved to different locations while the system automatically manages changes needed to linking addresses. **(See column 1, Matsukura.)**

Matsukura does not explicitly teach wherein said device management terminal includes a selection interface generating section for generating a selection interface through which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by said function determining section, and

wherein said function selecting section presents the selection interface generated by said selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions.

Audleman teaches wherein said device management terminal includes a selection interface generating section for generating a selection interface through which

one can select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision

module determined by said function determining section, and wherein said function

selecting section presents the selection interface generated by said selection interface

generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions.

(See figures 1-4 and column 1 lines 16-35, column 2 line 14 – column 3 line 45,

Auleman teaches a GUI being generated in which different functions can be

selected and applied to the client computers.)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have known to combine the teachings of Audleman with the

system of Matsukura and Hofrichter because both deal with device management. The

advantage of incorporating "said device management terminal includes a selection

interface generating section for generating a selection interface through which one can

select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module

determined by said function determining section, and wherein said function selecting

section presents the selection interface generated by said selection interface generating

section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions" of

Audleman into the teachings of Matsukura and Hofrichter is that makes the system

more efficient and robust by not requiring separate operations console for each

computer system being managed. **(See column 1, Audleman.)**

Regarding **Claim 3,**

Hofrichter and Matsukura teaches the device management system according to claim 2, wherein a plurality of said network devices are connected so that they can communicate with the system, and **(See figure 1 and page 5 lines 1-28, Hofrichter.)**

said function provision module is a module that realizes a function that is provided by at least two of said network devices working in combination. **(See page 4 lines 8-11, Hofrichter.)**

Regarding **Claim 4** ,

Hofrichter and Matsukura teach the device management system according to claim 3, wherein

said network device includes a device information acquisition section for obtaining device information for another network device other than itself from that network device among said plurality of network devices, and wherein said device information sending section sends device information stored in said device information storing section and device information obtained by said device information acquisition section to said device management terminal. **(See page 12 line 7 through Page 13 line 11, Hofrichter.)**

Regarding **Claim 7** ,

Hofrichter and Matsukura teach the device management system according to claim 20, wherein said function selecting section generates a GUI screen on which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module

determined by said function determining section and presents the GUI screen to the

user so that the user can select one or more of the functions. . **(See page 9, lines 3-15,**

Hofrichter.)

Regarding **Claim 9** ,

Hofrichter and Matsukura teach the device management system according to

claim 20, wherein said network device includes a selection interface generating section

for generating a selection interface through which one can select one or more of the

functions corresponding to function provision module determined by said function

determining section, and wherein said function selecting section presents the selection

interface generated by said selection interface generating section to the user so that the

user can select one or more of the functions. . **(See page 9, lines 3-30, Hofrichter .)**

Regarding **Claim 10** ,

Hofrichter and Matsukura teach the device management system according to

claim 9, wherein said device information includes device type identification information

that identifies the type of said network device, and wherein said function determining

section determines a function provision module that has a function available to said

network device based on a function registration table that stores functions associated

with said device type identification information. **(See page 4, lines 4-25, Hofrichter.)**

Matsukuru teaches a registration table. **(See figures 20-22 and column 17 lines**

24-65, Matsukura.)

The same motivation that was utilized in claim 1, applies equally as well to claim 10.

Regarding **Claim 11** ,

Hofrichter and Matsukura teach the device management system according to claim 10, wherein said device type identification information is a device type ID that uniquely identifies the type of said network device, and said function determining section determines a function provision module that has a function available to said network device based on a function registration table that stores functions associated with said device type IDs. **(See page 4, lines 4-25, Hofrichter.)**

Matsukuru teaches a registration table. **(See figures 20-22 and column 17 lines 24-65, Matsukura.)**

The same motivation that was utilized in claim 1, applies equally as well to claim 11.

Regarding **Claim 12** ,

Hofrichter and Matsukura teach the device management system according to claim 11, wherein:

said module storing section stores said function provision module as associated with user ID, said device management terminal includes a user ID receiving section for receiving said user ID, a second module reading section for reading a function provision module corresponding to a user ID received by said user ID receiving section from said

module storing section, and a second module sending section for sending said function

provision module read by said second module reading section to said network device,

and said network device including a user ID storing section for storing a user ID, and a

user ID sending section for sending the user ID stored in said user ID storing section to

said device management terminal. **(See page 4, lines 4-25 and page 9 line 15 – page**

10 line10, Hofrichter.)

      Regarding **Claim 13** ,

      Hofrichter and Matsukura teach the device management system according to

claim 12, wherein: said device management terminal includes a provision limiting

section for limiting provision of a function provision module, and wherein said provision

limiting section prevents a function provision module that has been once provided to

said network device based on said user ID from being provided for a re-access based

on the same user ID. **(See page 2 lines 23-29 and page 9 lines 9-11, Hofrichter .)**

      Regarding **Claim 14** ,

      Hofrichter and Matsukura teach the device management system according to

claim 12, wherein said device management terminal includes a provision limiting section

for limiting provision of a function provision module, and wherein said provision limiting

section defines the provision range of function provision module for each of said user

ID, and prevents provision of a function provision module that has been provided to the

network device based on said user ID beyond the provision range defined for the user

ID. **(See page 2 lines 23-29 and page 9 lines 9-11, Hofrichter.)**

Regarding **Claim 15,**

Hofrichter teaches a device management terminal connected to a network device

so that it can communicate with the network device, **(See abstract, Hofrichter)**

comprising a module storing section for storing function provision module that is

applied to said network device to provide it with functions, **(See page 4 lines 12 – 24,**

Hofrichter teaches a module storing section.)

a device information receiving section for receiving device information regarding

said network device, **(See page 4 lines 12-24, Hofrichter teaches receiving device**

information.)

a module reading section for reading the function provision module I determined

by said function determining section from said module storing section, **(See page 3**

lines 23-45, Hofrichter teaches the application being downloaded the network

device.)

a module sending section for sending said function provision module read by

said module reading section to said network device and **(See page 9 lines 16-35,**

Hofrichter teaches a client having a memory unit.)

Matsukura teaches a function determining section for determining a function

provision module that has a function available to said network device based on said

device information received by said device information receiving section, **(See figures**

12-15 and columns 14 line 25 – column 16 lines 55, Matsukura teaches a function

deterring section for determining a function provision module.)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Hofrichter and Matsukura because both deal with the

management of network devices. The advantage of combining Matsukura with

Hofrichter is that Matsukura allows computers to be moved to different locations while

the system automatically manages changes needed to linking addresses. **(See column**

1, Matsukura.)

Matsukura does not explicitly teach a function selecting section that allows a user

to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module

determined by the function determining section, and wherein said module reading

section reads out a function provision module that corresponds to a function selected by

the function selecting section from said module storing section.

Audleman teaches a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or

more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by the

function determining section, and wherein said module reading section reads out a

function provision module that corresponds to a function selected by the function

selecting section from said module storing section. **(See figures 1-4 and column 1**

lines 16-35, column 2 line 14 – column 3 line 45, Auleman teaches a GUI being

generated in which different functions can be selected and applied to the client

computers.)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have known to combine the teachings of Audleman with the system of Matsukura and Hofrichter because both deal with device management. The advantage of incorporating "a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by the function determining section, and wherein said module reading section reads out a function provision module that corresponds to a function selected by the function selecting section from said module storing section" of Audleman into the teachings of Matsukura and Hofrichter is that makes the system more efficient and robust by not requiring separate operations console.

Regarding **Claim 17,**

Hofrichter teaches a programmable computer that is connected to a network device so that they can communicate with each other, comprising: **(See abstract, Hofrichter)**

said computer having a memory containing a terminal program for causing said computer to execute processing that is realized as a device information receiving section for receiving device information regarding said network device, **(See page 4 lines 12-24, Hofrichter teaches receiving device information.)**

a module reading section for reading the function provision module determined by said function determining section from said module reading section, **(See page 3**

lines 23-45, Hofrichter teaches the application being downloaded the network
device.)

a module sending section for sending said function provision module read by
said module reading section to said network device, and **(See page 9 lines 16-35,
Hofrichter teaches a client having a memory unit.)**

Matsukura teaches a function determining section for determining a function
provision module that has a function available to said network device based on said
device information received by said device information receiving section, **(See figures
12-15 and columns 14 line 25 – column 16 lines 55, Matsukura teaches a function
deterring section for determining a function provision module.)**

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the
invention was made to combine Hofrichter and Matsukura because both deal with the
management of network devices. The advantage of combining Matsukura with
Hofrichter is that Matsukura allows computers to be moved to different locations while
the system automatically manages changes needed to linking addresses. **(See column
1, Matsukura.)**

Matsukura does not explicitly teach a function selecting section that allows a user
to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module
determined by said function determining section, and wherein said module reading
section reads out a function provision module that corresponds to a function selected by
said function selecting section.

Audleman teaches a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by said function determining section, and wherein said module reading section reads out a function provision module that corresponds to a function selected by said function selecting section. **(See figures 1-4 and column 1 lines 16-35, column 2 line 14 – column 3 line 45, Auleman teaches a GUI being generated in which different functions can be selected and applied to the client computers.)**

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have known to combine the teachings of Audleman with the system of Matsukura and Hofrichter because both deal with device management. The advantage of incorporating "a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by said function determining section, and wherein said module reading section reads out a function provision module that corresponds to a function selected by said function selecting section" of Audleman into the teachings of Matsukura and Hofrichter is that makes the system more efficient and robust by not requiring separate operations console.

Regarding **Claim 20**,

Hofrichter teaches a device management system which connects a network device with a device management terminal that manages said network device so that they can communicate with each other, comprising: **(See abstract, Hofrichter)**

said device management terminal including a module storing section for storing a function provision module that is applied to said network device to provide it with functions, **(See page 4 lines 12 – 24, Hofrichter teaches a module storing section.)**

a device information receiving section for receiving device information regarding said network device, **(See page 4 lines 12-24, Hofrichter teaches receiving device information)**

a module reading section for reading said function provision module determined by said function determining section from said module storing section, and **(See page 3 lines 23-45, Hofrichter teaches the application being downloaded the network device.)**

a module sending section for sending said function provision module read by said module reading section to said network device, and said network device including a device information storing section for storing said device information, **See page 9 lines 16-35, Hofrichter teaches a client having a memory unit.)**

a device information sending section for sending said device information stored by said device information storing section to said device management terminal, a module receiving section for receiving said function provision module, a module executing section for executing the function provision module received by said module receiving section and **(See page 9 lines 16-35, Hofrichter teaches a network device having a memory unit, a cpu, and a modem for connecting to the network.)**

Matsukura teaches a function determining section for determining a function provision module that has a function available to said network device based on said

device information received by said device information receiving section, **(See figures 12-15 and columns 14 line 25 – column 16 lines 55, Matsukura teaches a function deterring section for determining a function provision module.)**

a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by said function determining section, and wherein said module reading section reads out a function provision module that corresponds to a function selected by said function selecting section from said module storing section. and **(See figures 26-29 and columns 19 line 25 – column 20 lines 55, Matsukura teaches a function selection section that allows a user to select a function.)**

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Hofrichter and Matsukura because both deal with the management of network devices. The advantage of combining Matsukura with Hofrichter is that Matsukura allows computers to be moved to different locations while the system automatically manages changes needed to linking addresses. **(See column 1, Matsukura.)**

Matsukura does not explicitly teach wherein said device management terminal includes a selection interface generating section for generating a selection interface through which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by said function determining section, and

wherein said function selecting section presents the selection interface generated by said selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions.

Audleman teaches wherein said device management terminal includes a selection interface generating section for generating a selection interface through which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by said function determining section, and wherein said function selecting section presents the selection interface generated by said selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions. **(See figures 1-4 and column 1 lines 16-35, column 2 line 14 – column 3 line 45, Auleman teaches a GUI being generated in which different functions can be selected and applied to the client computers.)**

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have known to combine the teachings of Audleman with the system of Matsukura and Hofrichter because both deal with device management. The advantage of incorporating "said device management terminal includes a selection interface generating section for generating a selection interface through which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by said function determining section, and wherein said function selecting section presents the selection interface generated by said selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions" of Audleman into the teachings of Matsukura and Hofrichter is that makes the system

more efficient and robust by not requiring separate operations console for each

computer system being managed. **(See column 1, Audleman.)**

3.   Claims 16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Hofrichter, (PCT/US01/45355) in view of Audleman (United States Patent

6806890.)

        Regarding **Claim 16**,

        Hofrichter teaches a network device connected to a device management terminal

so that they can communicate with each other, comprising a device information storing

section for storing the device information regarding a network device, a device

information sending section for sending the device information stored by said device

information storing section to said device management terminal, a module receiving

section for receiving a function provision module that is applied to the network device to

provide it with a function, and a module executing section for executing the function

provision module received by said module receiving section, and **(See page 9 lines 16-**

35, Hofrichter teaches a network device having a memory unit, a cpu, and a

modem for connecting to the network.)

        Hofitcher does not explicitly teach a function selecting section that allows a user

to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module.

        Audleman teaches a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or

more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module. **(See figures 1-4**

and column 1 lines 16-35, column 2 line 14 – column 3 line 45, Auleman teaches a

GUI being generated in which different functions can be selected and applied to

the client computers.)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have known to combine the teachings of Audleman with the

system of Hofrichter because both deal with device management. The advantage of

incorporating "a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the

functions corresponding to the function provision module" of Audleman into the

teachings of Hofrichter is that makes the system more efficient and robust by not

requiring separate operations console for each computer system being managed. **(See**

column 1, Audleman.)

Regarding **Claim 18,**

Hofrichter teaches a programmable computer that is connected to a network

device so that they can communicate with each other, comprising:

said computer having a memory containing a terminal program causing said

computer to execute processing that is realized as a device information sending section

for sending device information stored by a device information storing section to a device

management terminal, **(See page 3 lines 23-45, Hofrichter teaches the application**

being downloaded the network device.)

a module receiving section for receiving a function provision I module that is

applied to the computer to provide it with a function, a module executing section for

executing the function provision module received by said module receiving section, and **(See page 9 lines 16-35, Hofrichter teaches a client having a memory unit, a cpu for execution, and a modem for connecting to the network.)**

Hofitcher does not explicitly teach a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module.

Auleman teaches a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module. **(See figures 1-4 and column 1 lines 16-35, column 2 line 14 – column 3 line 45, Auleman teaches a GUI being generated in which different functions can be selected and applied to the client computers.)**

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have known to combine the teachings of Audleman with the system of Hofrichter because both deal with device management. The advantage of incorporating "a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module" of Audleman into the teachings of Hofrichter is that makes the system more efficient and robust by not requiring separate operations console for each computer system being managed. **(See column 1, Audleman.)**

Regarding **Claim 19,**

Hofrichter teaches a device management method for connecting a network device so that it can communicate and managing said network device, comprising:

when device information regarding said network device is received, functions available to said network device are determined based on the device information, and based on the determination, **(See page 4 lines 12 – 24, Hofrichter teaches a module storing section.)**

a function provision module that is applied to said network I device to provide it with a function is sent to said network device, and **(See page 4 lines 12 – 24, Hofrichter teaches a module storing section.)**

Hofrichter does not explicitly teach a function selecting section is provided that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module.

Auleman teaches a function selecting section is provided that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module. **(See figures 1-4 and column 1 lines 16-35, column 2 line 14 – column 3 line 45, Auleman teaches a GUI being generated in which different functions can be selected and applied to the client computers.)**

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have known to combine the teachings of Audleman with the system of Hofrichter because both deal with device management. The advantage of incorporating "a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module" of Audleman into the teachings of Hofrichter is that makes the system more efficient and robust by not

requiring separate operations console for each computer system being managed. **(See**

column 1, Audleman.)

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 2-4, 7, and 9-20have been

considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed** to (571) 272-8300 or **mailed** to:

> Commissioner for Patents
> P.O. Box 1450
> Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

> ### *Hand-delivered responses should be brought to*
> Customer Service Window
> Randolph Building
> 401 Dulany Street
> Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to NINOS DONABED whose telephone number is

(571)270-3526. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM-

5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on (571) 272-3922. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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